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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Continuation of Serial No. 09/059,776

Applicants:

Ryuji ISHIGURO, et al.

Filed

Herewith

For

ENCIPHERING APPARATUS AND METHOD, DECIPHERING

APPARATUS AND METHOD AS WELL AS INFORMATION

PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD

Art Unit

3642

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Box Patent Application Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before the issuance of the first Official Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows: